

60th (Vertical) Engineer Company builds from the bottom up

By THE BAYONET, Rachel L. Watkins

Forty Engineers from the 60th (Vertical) Engineer Company got out their saws, hammers and measuring tape Tuesday to build urban terrain buildings, tent pads and guard towers at a Sand Hill training site for the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment.

The 60th Eng. Co. is the only vertical engineer company at Fort Benning. They build structures from the ground up — towers and buildings — unlike horizontal companies, which build over instead of up — bridges and road repair.

The company, consisting of plumbers, electricians, carpenters, machine operators and masons, builds everything from wooden shelters to structures with plumbing and electricity.

The project at Sand Hill was the first one on post for the company.

"Many of these guys are fresh out of AIT, so this is a good exercise for them to learn from the more experienced engineers," said 2nd LT. Seth Sanders, platoon leader.

This project is less intricate than one they might see later, including installing plumbing and electricity, he said.

Engineers have to be flexible when it comes to working at a site, said CPL. Rodney Young, squad leader, mason, and carpentry specialist who has been with the company for three years.

"One site might have sand and another site might have Georgia red clay and these are factors that will affect how you build a structure," he said.

The most rewarding part of Young's job — seeing the end product.

"When you start, you have a vision of what'll look like and when you are done, you get to see that vision become a reality," he said.

The nine-day project will be completed next week and after that, the company is looking for new projects.



(Engineers building urban terrain buildings at Ft Benning, GA)